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On the electronic frontier

By David C. Churbuck

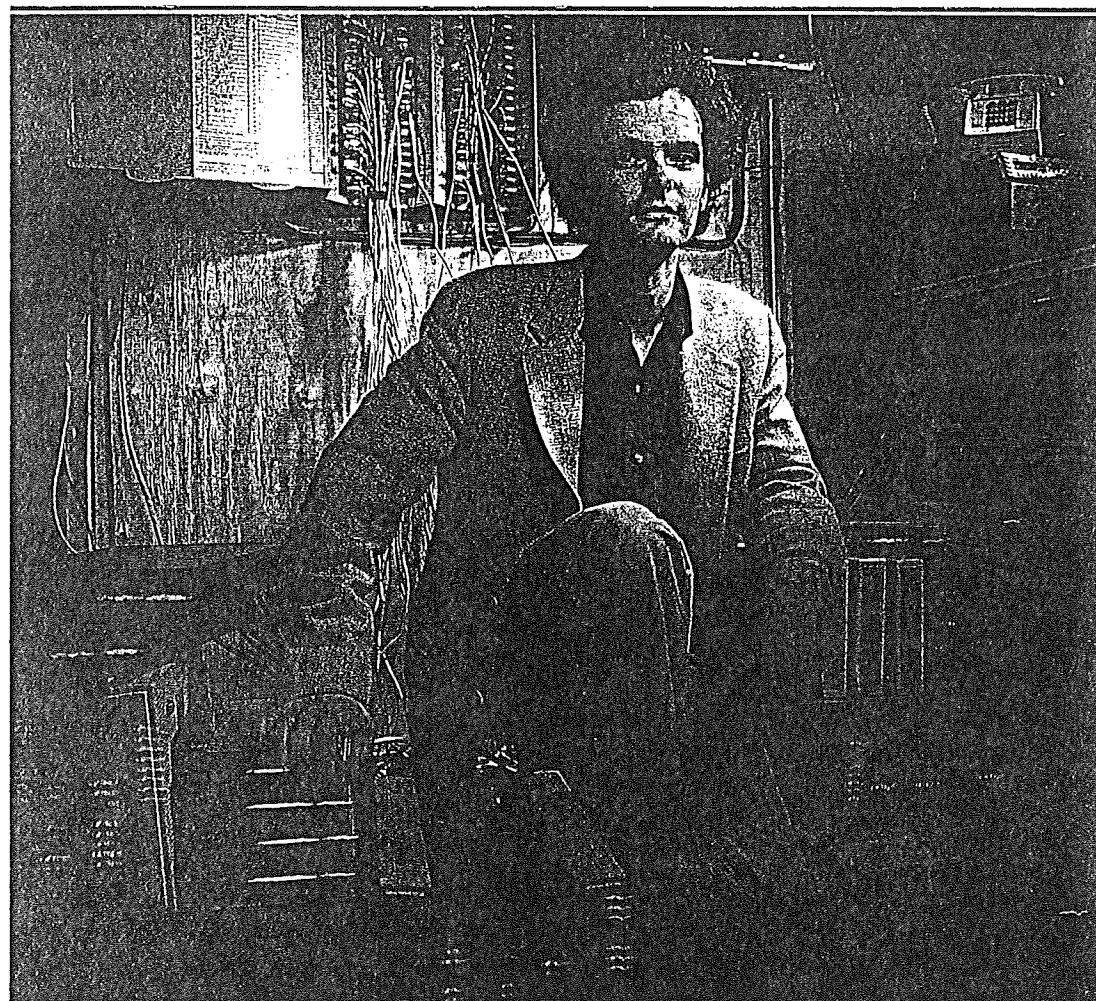
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into business providing that access, you set up shop in your basement with an initial bare-bones investment of maybe \$30,000 in electronic gear and a monthly outlay for telephone connections of \$1,000 or so. Then you sell networking services to a few hundred customers at \$20 a month.

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How to connect

Company	Coverage	Rates	Information
World	Boston	\$5 per month, \$2 per hour or \$20 for 20 hours per month	617-739-0202
Panix	New York	\$19 full access, \$10 limited	212-787-6160
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Texas Metronet	Dallas-Fort Worth	\$19 per month, unlimited time	214-705-2900
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Performance Systems Intl	worldwide	\$19 setup fee, \$19 at 2400 bps, \$29 at 9600 bps	800-827-7482

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It used to be that selling Internet access was taboo under the guidelines set down by the federal government angel that financed the network, the National Science Foundation. The NSF-paid cross-country trunk line, known as the backbone, can move 45 megabits (that's about 5 megabytes) per second of data traffic from one regional hub to another. Hanging off the regional hubs are regional networks, consortia of universities and corporate research sites that agreed not to allow any traffic with a commercial flavor to flow over their wires.

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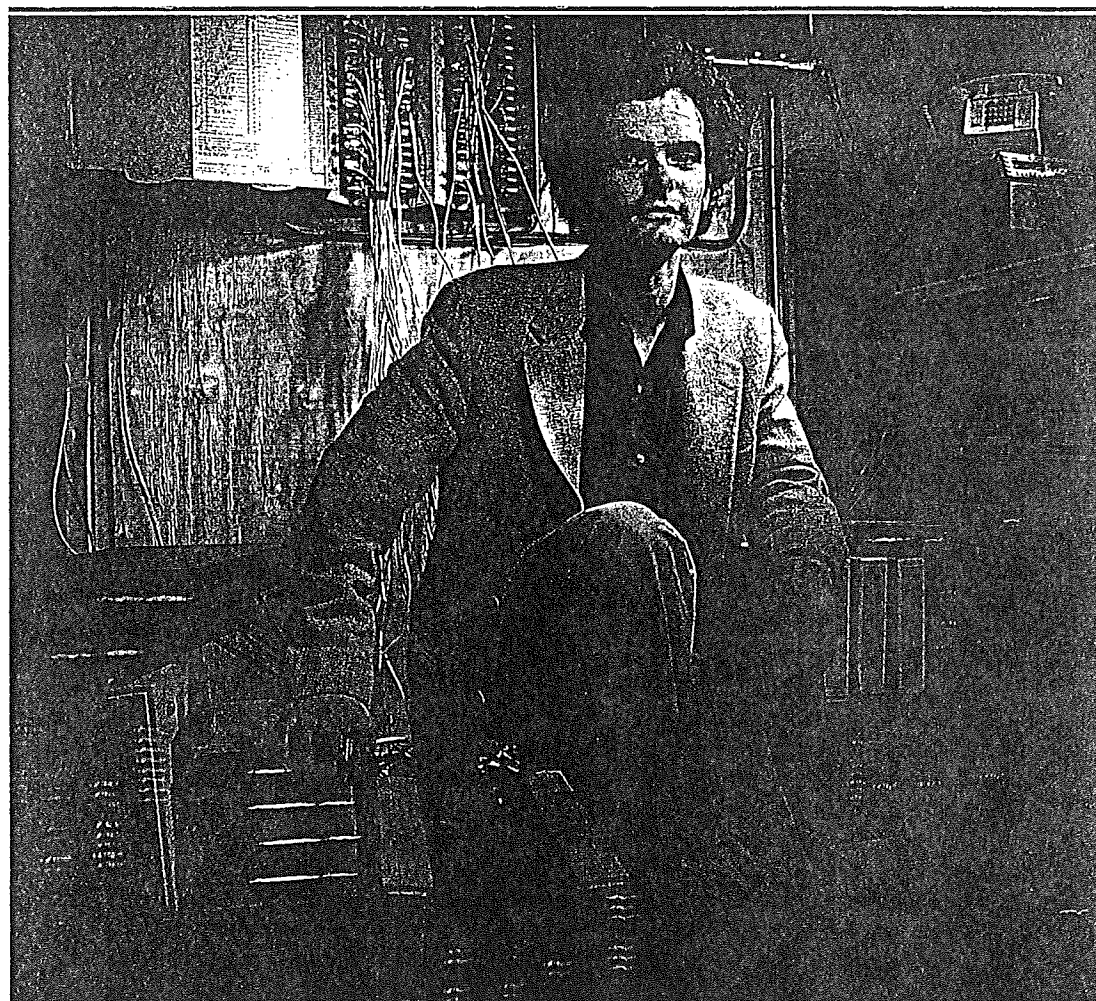
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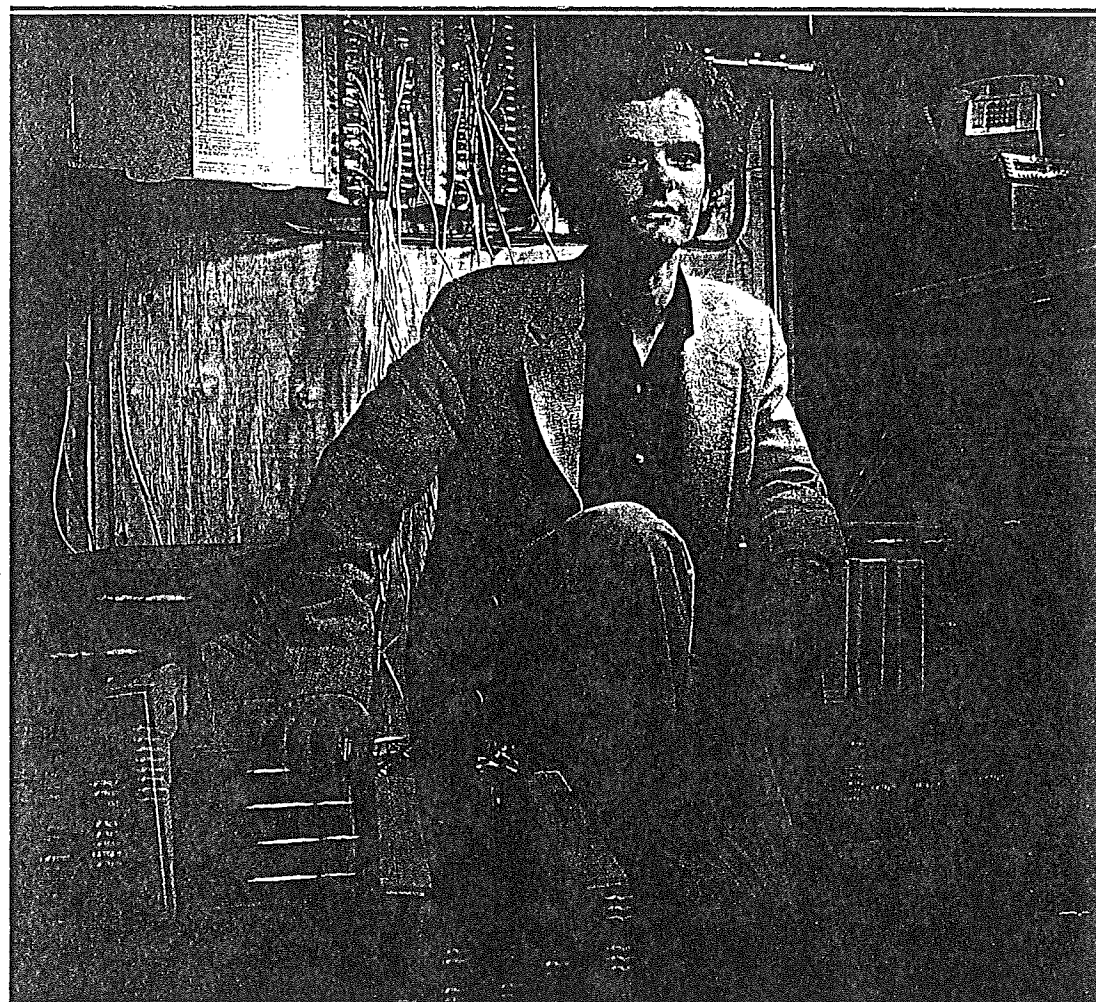
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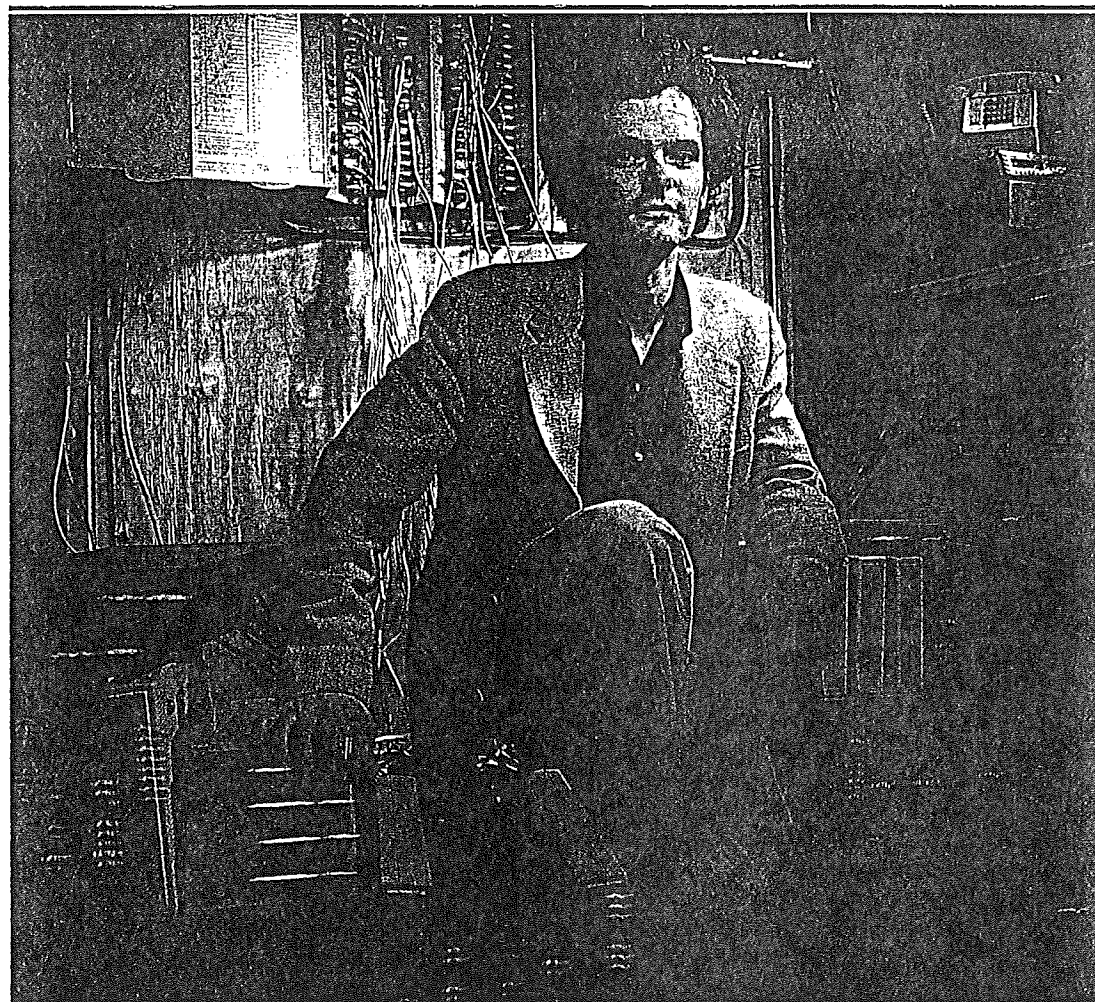
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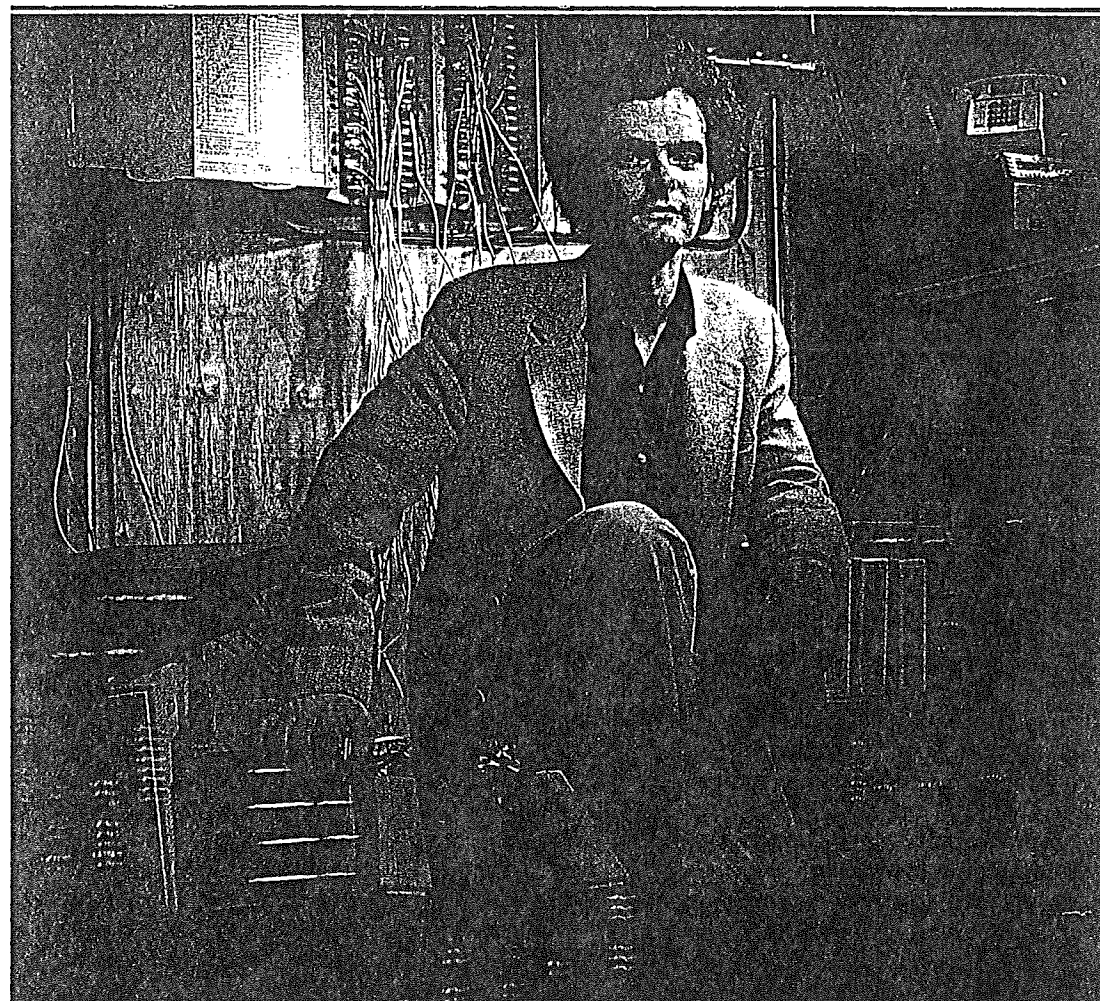
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By David C. Churbuck

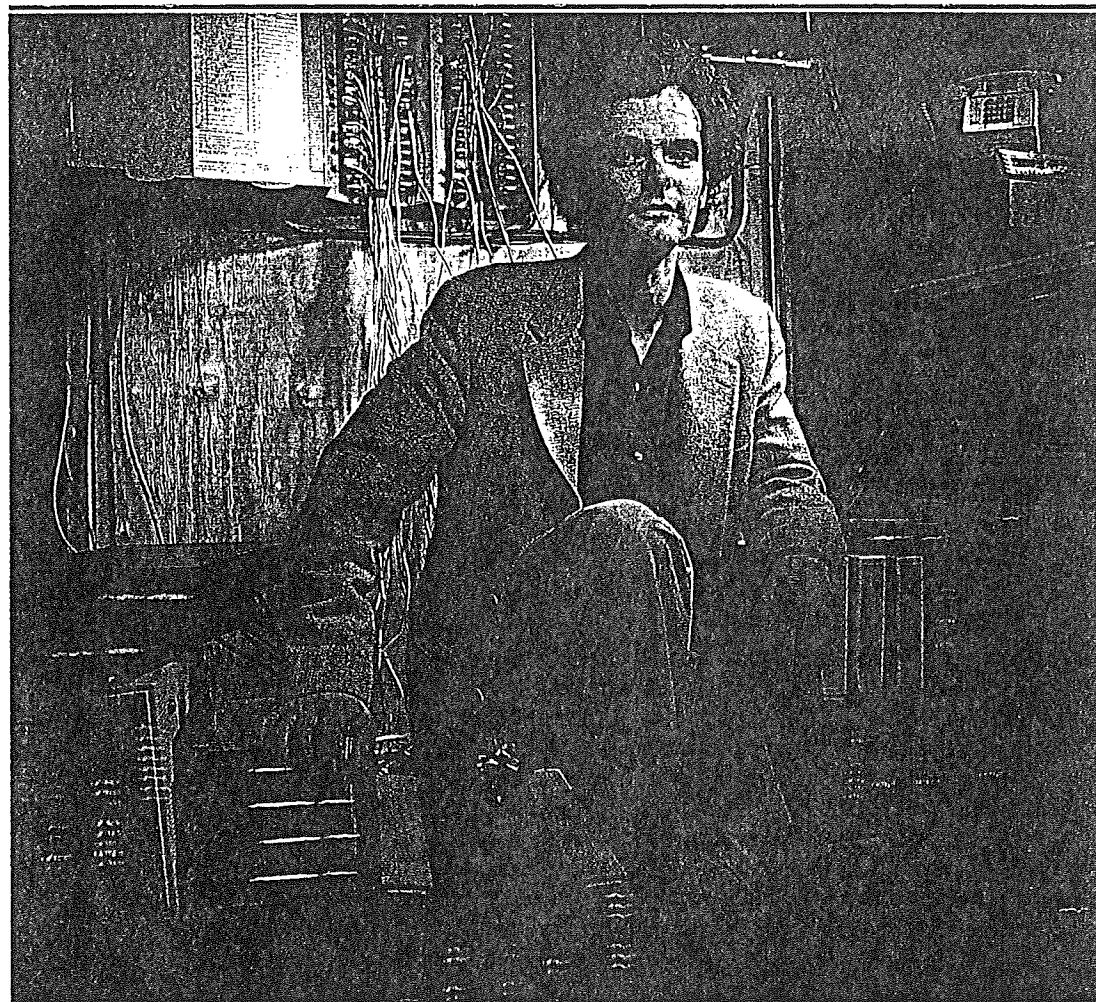
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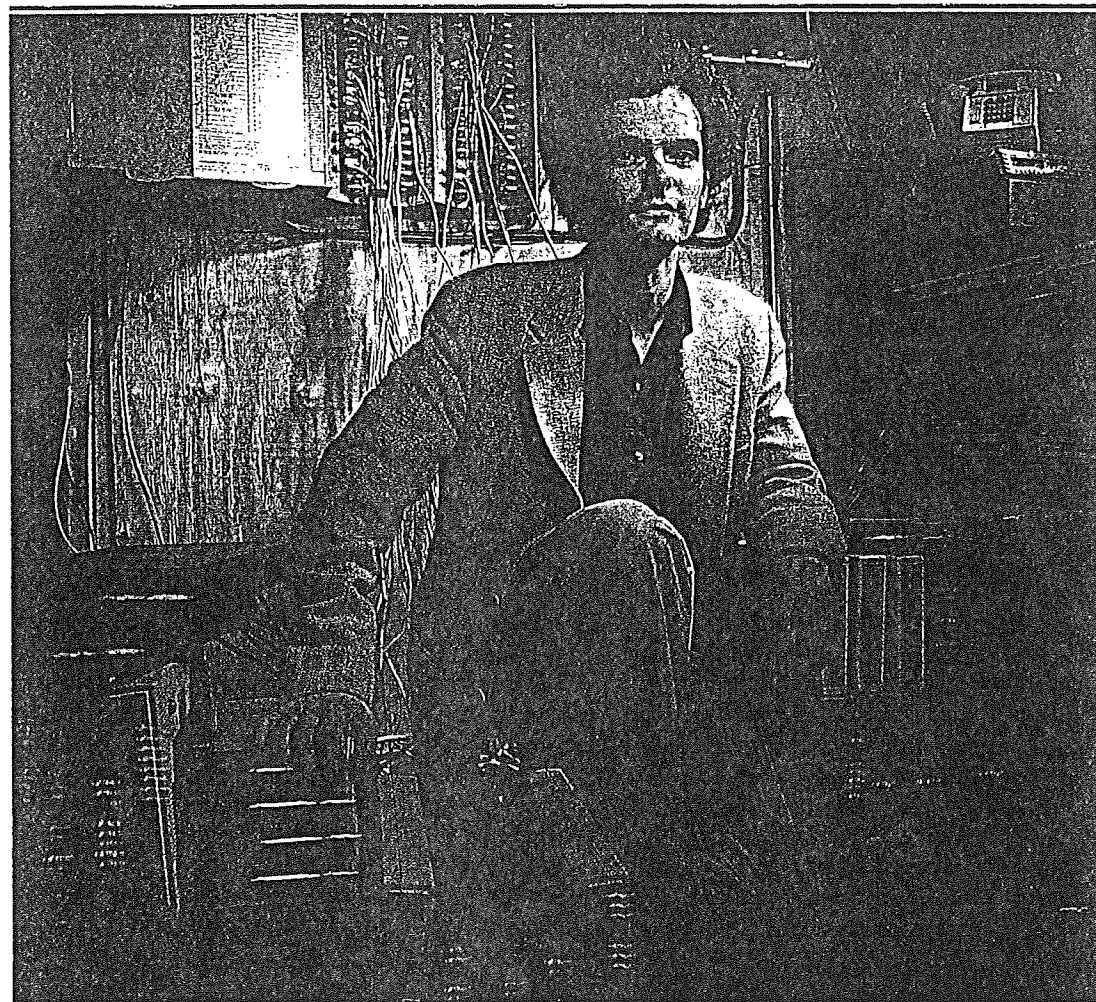
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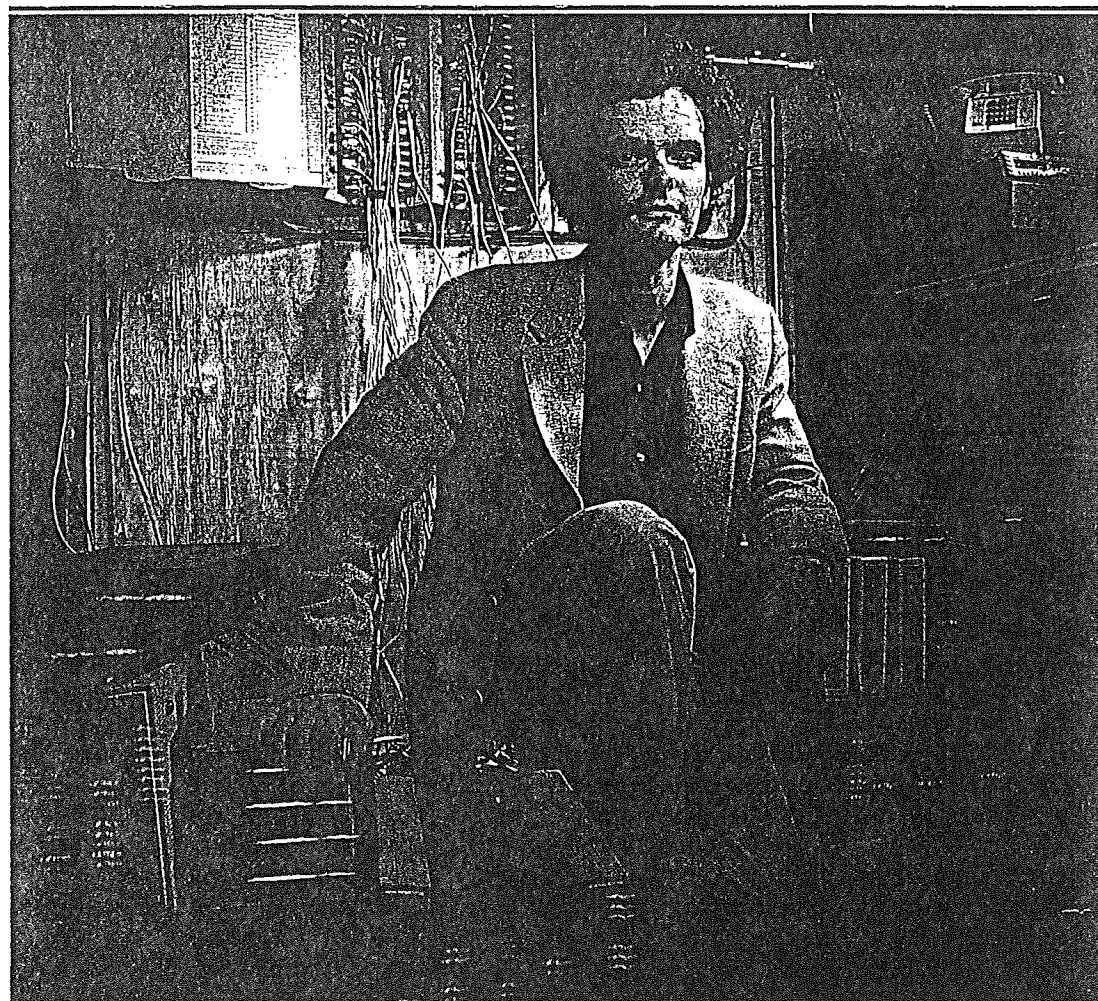
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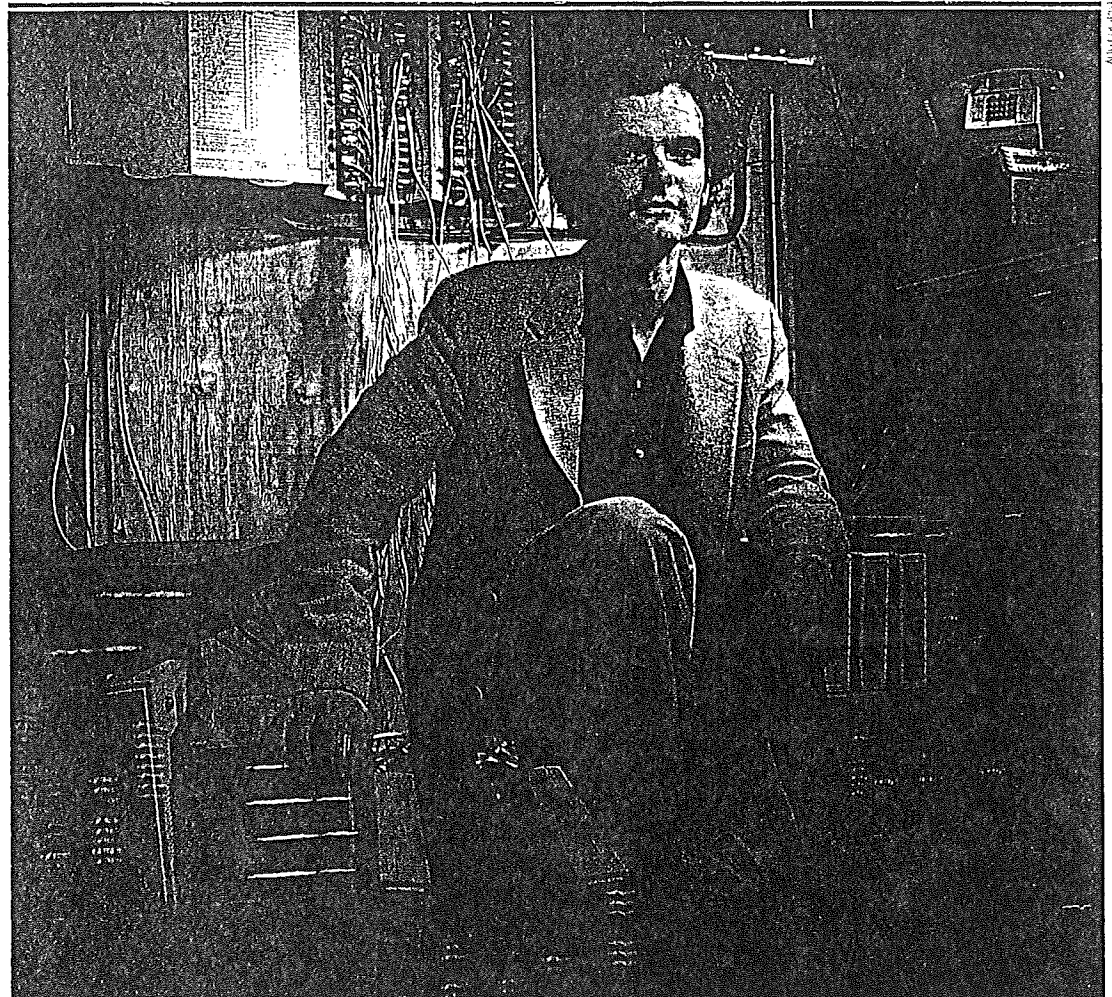
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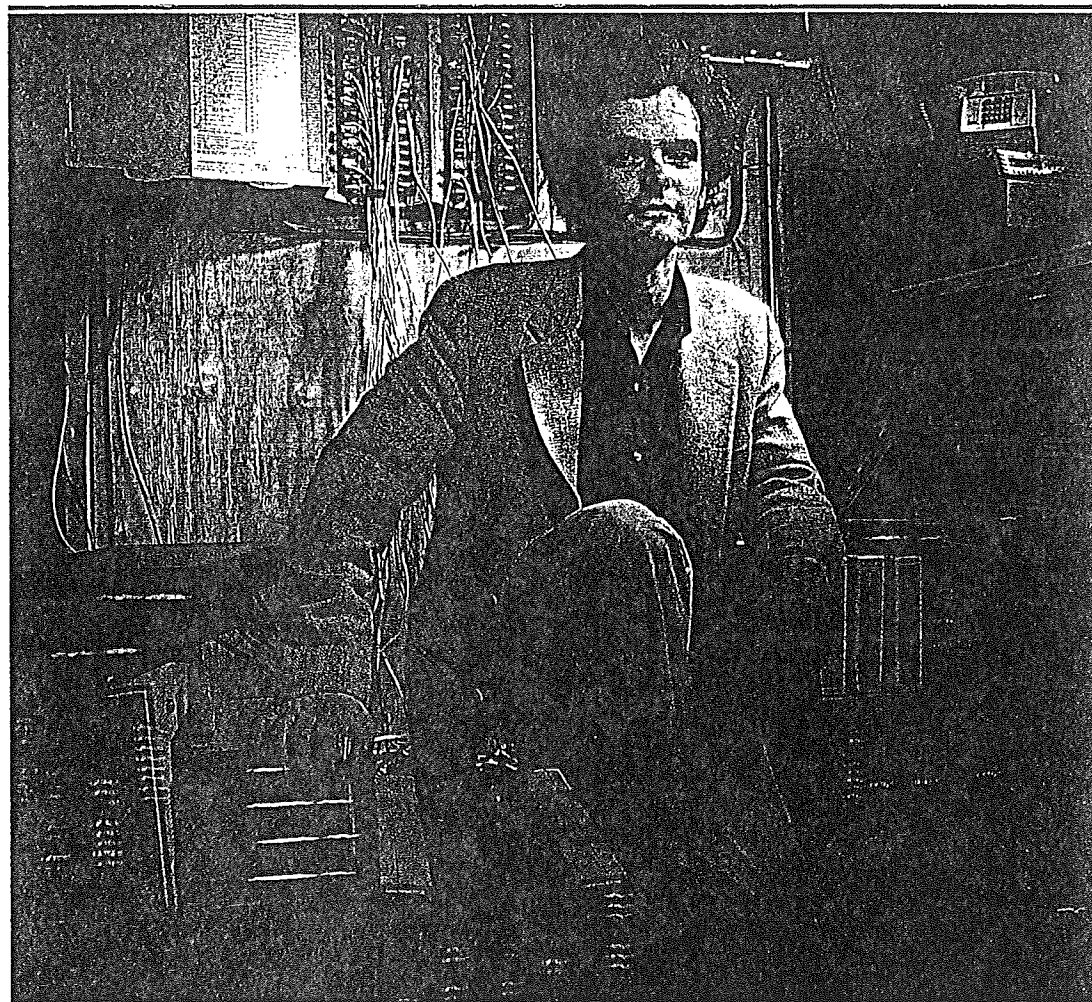
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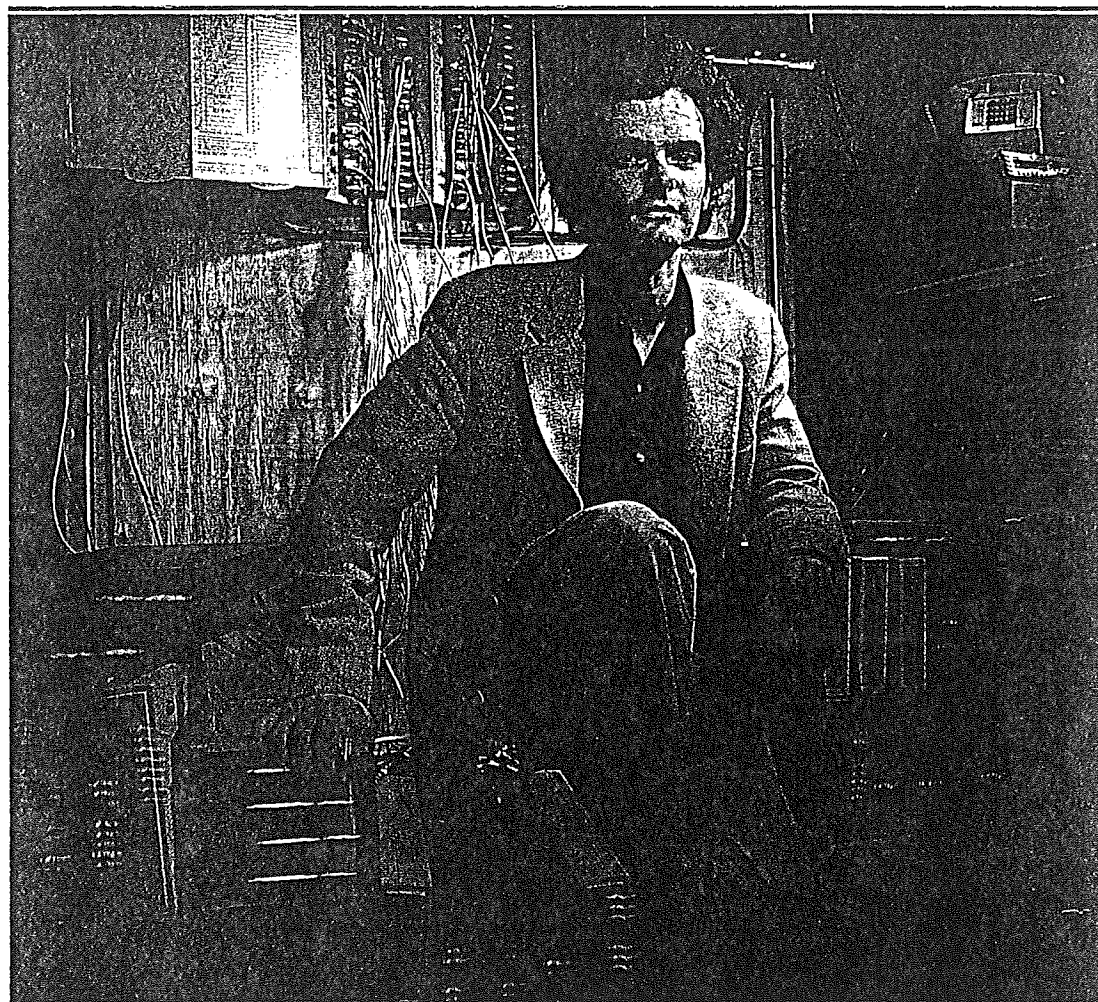
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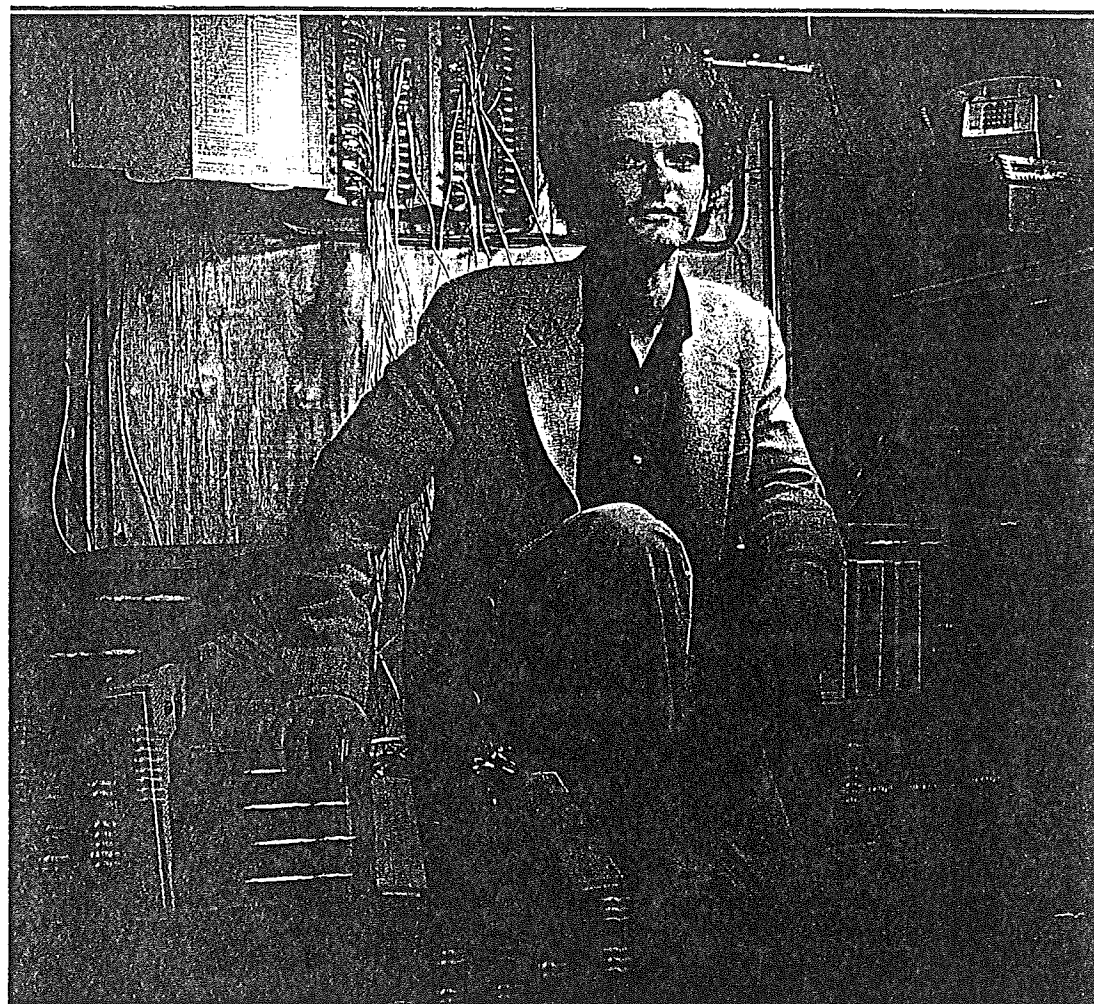
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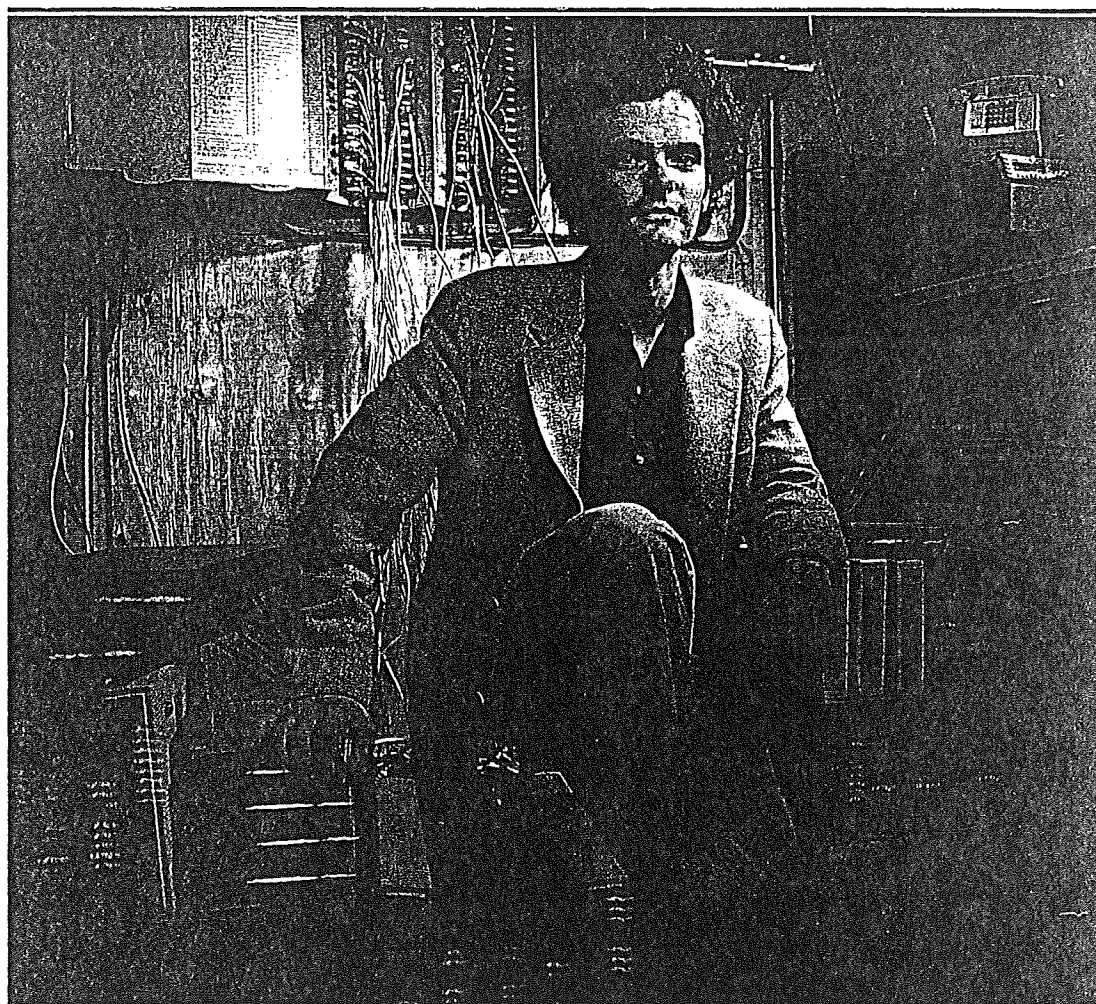
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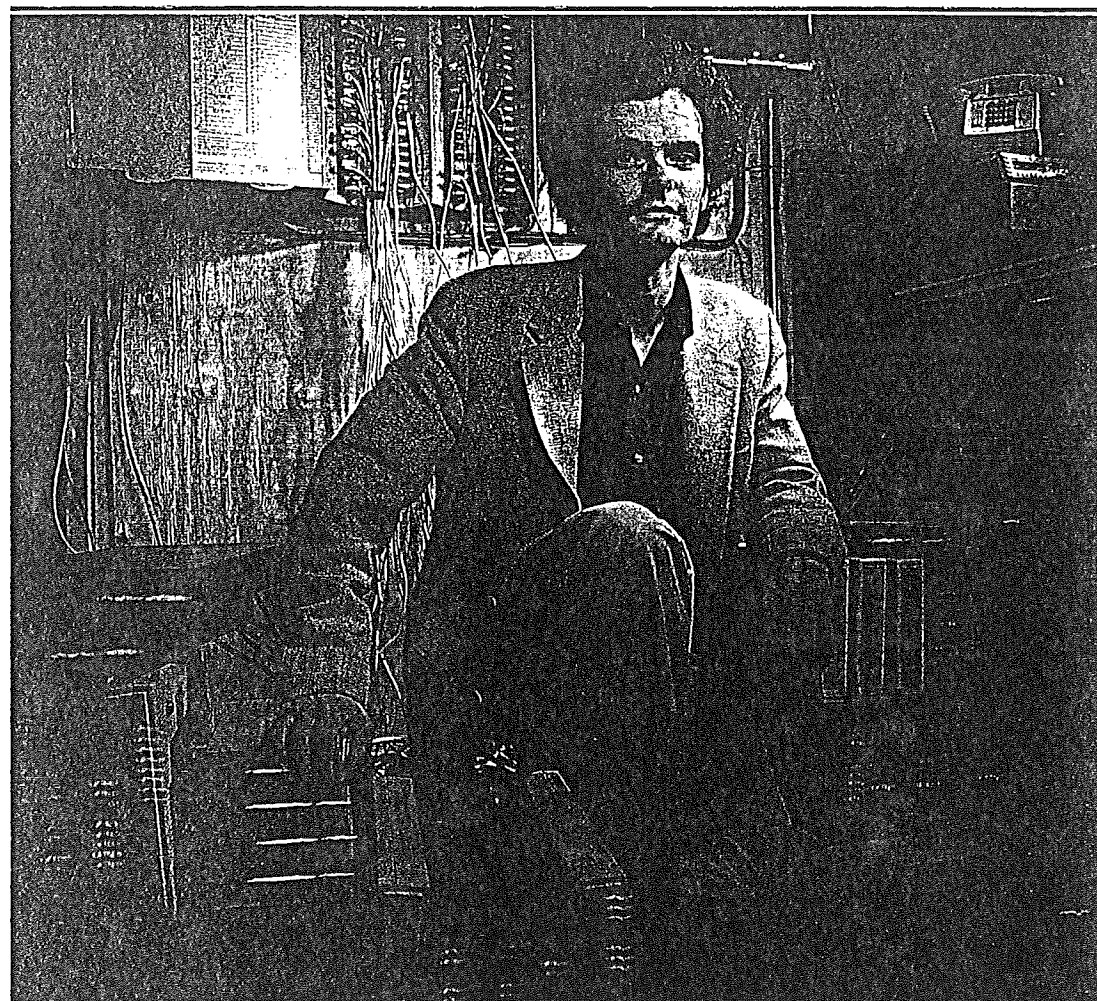
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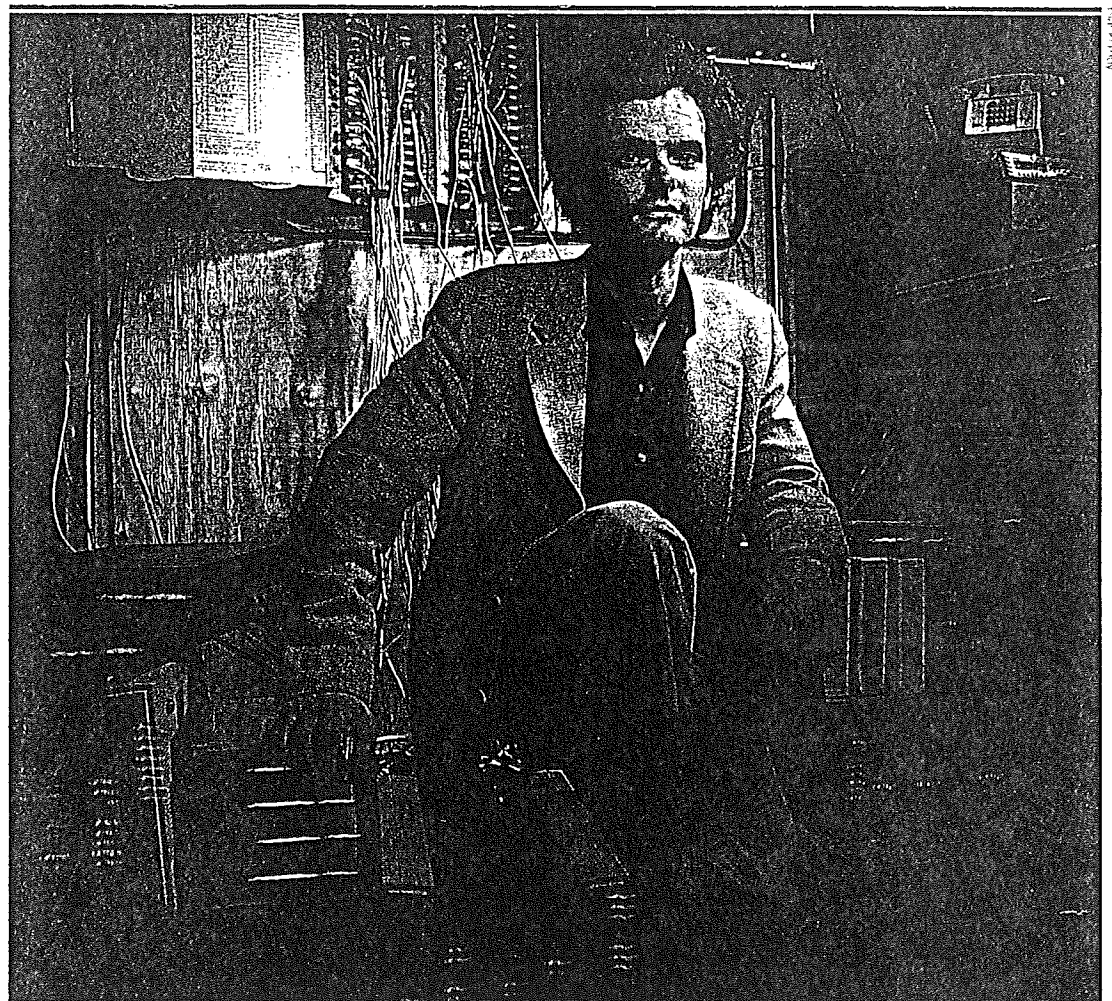
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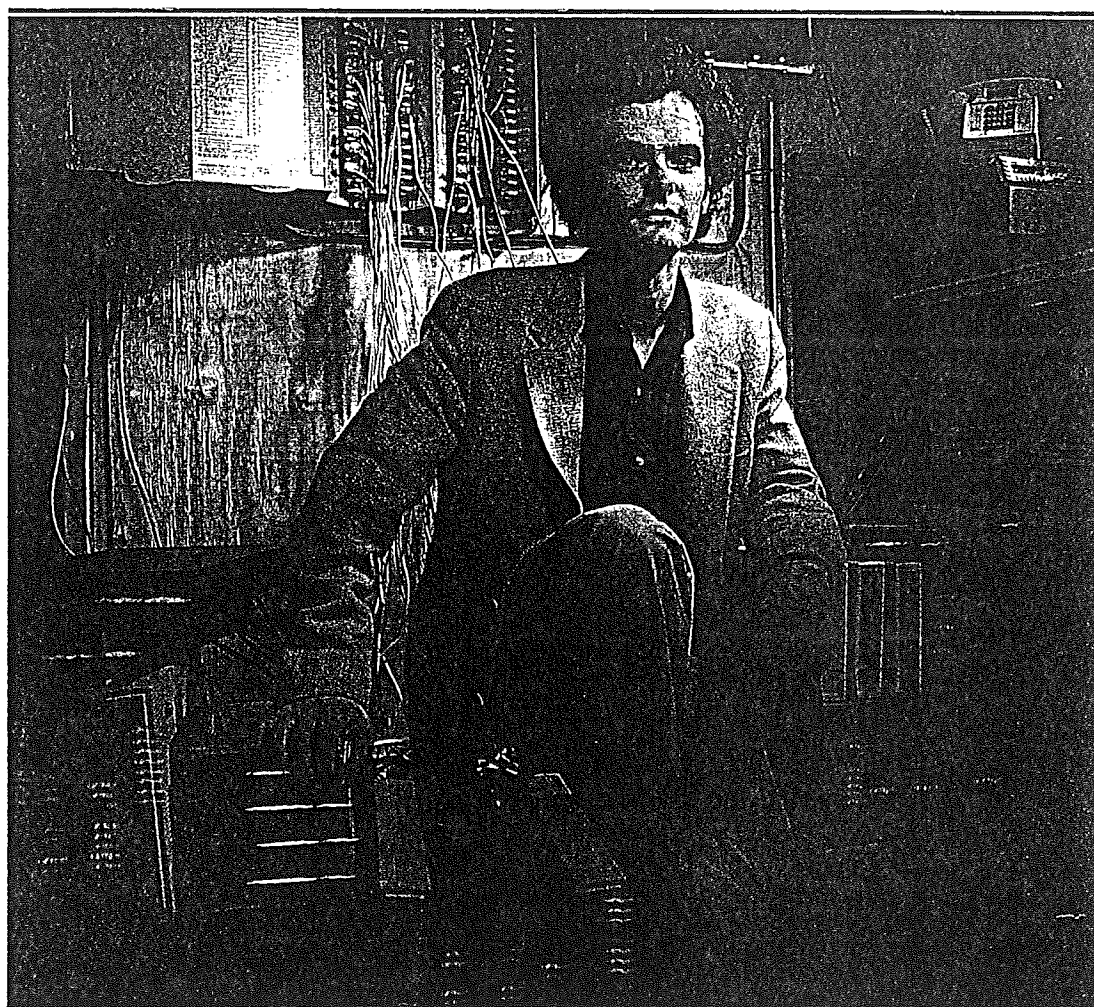
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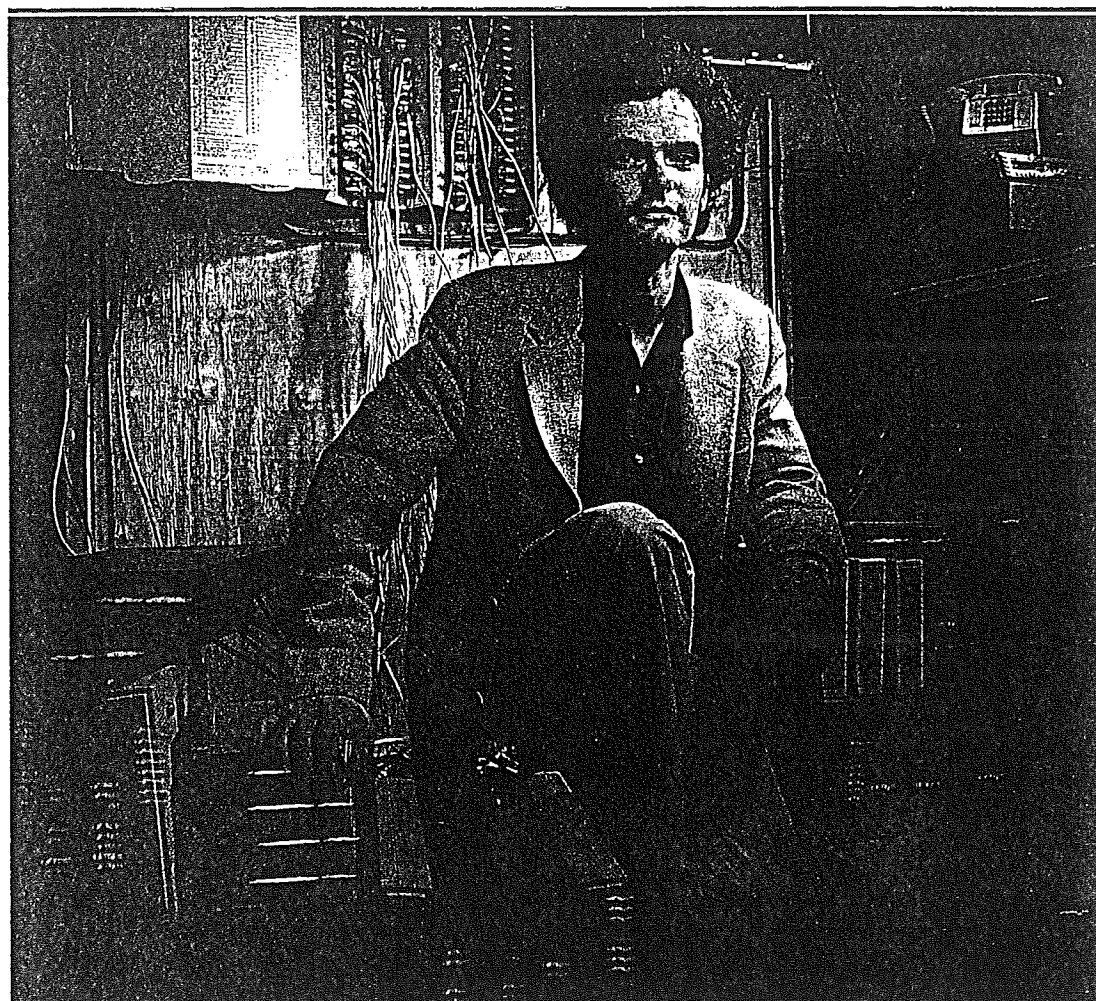
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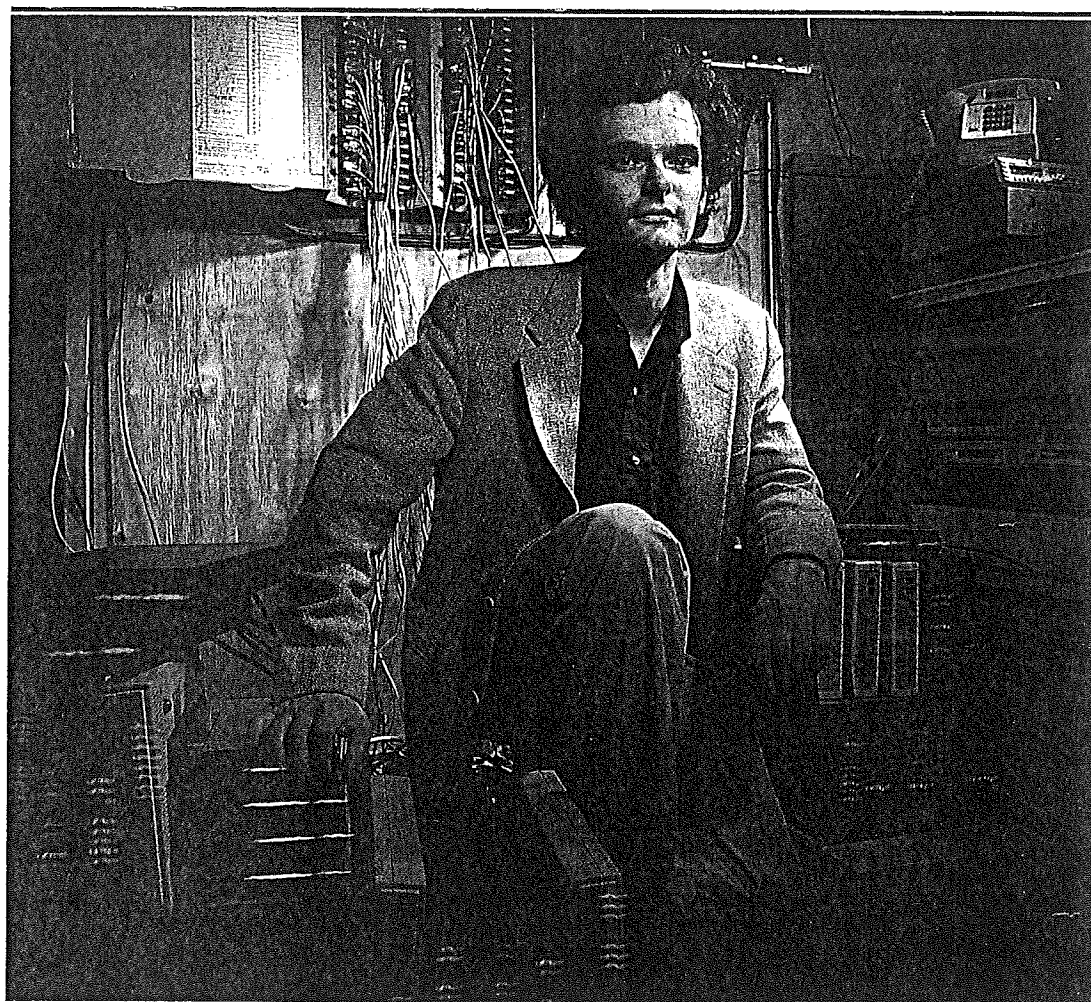
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